

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/403796

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/GB98/01211INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
24 April 1998PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
25 April 1997TITLE OF INVENTION
CUTTING SHEET MATERIALAPPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US
SHAH, Muntaz

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

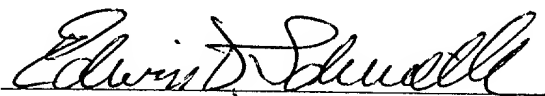
1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 19(1)
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau)
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☒ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau)
 - b. ☒ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☒ A substitute specification. Part of IPEA/EP Report, filed June 14, 1999.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:
 1. Int'l Preliminary Examination Report
 2. Int'l Search Report by European Patent Office
 3. Small Entity Statement-Ind. Inventor

"Express Mail" mailing label number EK 043196565 US
Date of Deposit October 25, 1999

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail-Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231.



Edwin D. Schindler, Reg. No. 31,459

October 25, 1999

Date

17 ☒ The following fees are submitted:

Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):

Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$840.00
~~\$300.00~~

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
..... \$640.00

No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) . . . \$710.00

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor
international search fee (37CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$950.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).. . . . \$90.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ 840.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$ -0-

Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate
Total 14 Claims	-0- -20 =	-0-	X \$22.00
Independent Claims	2 -3 =	-0-	X \$74.00

\$ -0-

\$ -0-

Multiple dependent claims(s) (if applicable) + \$230.00

\$ -0-

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$ 840.00

Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement
must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).

\$ -420.00

SUBTOTAL = \$ 420.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later the ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

\$ -0-

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$ 420.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +

\$ -0-

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ 420.00

Amount to be:
refunded \$
charged \$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ **420.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

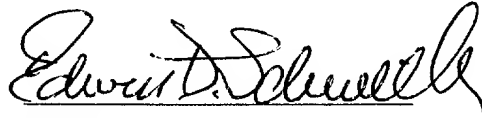
b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0450. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Edwin D. Schindler
Five Hirsch Avenue
P. O. Box 966
Coram, New York 11727-0966



SIGNATURE

Edwin D. Schindler

NAME

31,459

REGISTRATION NUMBER

Applicant or Patentee: **MUMTAZ SHAH**

Serial No.: _____ Filing Date: _____

Patent No.: _____ Issued: _____

For: **CUTTING OF SHEET MATERIAL**

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) — INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled **CUTTING OF SHEET MATERIAL**

described in

☐ the application filed herewith
☒ PCT application serial no. **PCT/GB98/01211**, filed **24 April 1998**
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ no such person, concern, or organization
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

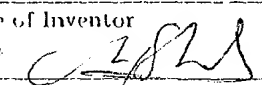
FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR MUMTAZ SHAH	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
Signature of Inventor 	Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor
Date 15.10.99	Date	Date

09/403796

423 Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 5 OCT 1999

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: MUNTAZ SHAH

ART UNIT:

SERIAL NO.: 09/

EXAMINER:

FILED: CONCURRENTLY HERewith

P.C.T. APPLICATION NO.: PCT/GB98/01211

TITLE: CUTTING OF SHEET MATERIAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

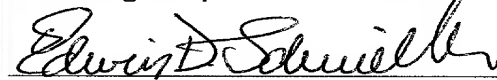
Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification, as filed during the P.C.T. Chapter II international phase on June 14, 1999, as follows:

"Express Mail" mailing label number EK 043196565 US
Date of Deposit October 25, 1999

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail - Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231.



Edwin D. Schindler, Reg. No. 31,459

October 25, 1999
Date

Page 6, line 3, delete "amended".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-5, as examined during the P.C.T. international phase (which were the subject of the Chapter II International Preliminary Examination Report, filed June 14, 1999), and substitute therefor the following new claims:

--6. Apparatus for cutting sheet material, comprising:
a lower part for placing below a piece of sheet material;
an upper part disposed above said lower part, with a gap existing between said upper part and said lower part for receiving said piece of sheet material;
a cutting blade secured in said upper and lower parts and extending across said gap;
means for exerting pressure on said upper part in said gap for bearing on said lower part, so that said piece of sheet material is able to be inserted between said means for exerting pressure and said lower part for tensioning the sheet material in the vicinity of said cutting blade.

7. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 6, wherein said cutting blade is the only mechanical connection between said upper part and said lower part, so that there is no obstruction to free movement of said apparatus when engaged with sheet material.

8. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 6, further comprising a holder for said cutting blade wherein said cutting blade and said holder, in combination with one another, is the only mechanical connection between said upper part and said lower part, so that there is no obstruction to free movement of said apparatus when engaged with sheet material.

9. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 6, wherein said means for exerting pressure comprises a freely rotatable wheel, positioned immediately in front of said cutting blade.

10. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 6, wherein an upper face of said lower part and a lower face of said upper part are shaped for providing matching sinusoidal surfaces for supporting said upper part and for tensioning said sheet material.

11. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 6, further comprising a window provided in said upper part for viewing said sheet material when said sheet material is immediately in front of said cutting blade.

12. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 6, further comprising a window provided in said lower part for viewing said sheet material when said sheet material is immediately in front of said cutting blade.

13. Apparatus for cutting sheet material, comprising:
a lower part for placing below a piece of sheet material;

an upper part disposed above said lower part, with a gap existing between said upper part and said lower part for receiving said piece of sheet material;

a cutting blade secured in said upper and lower parts and extending across said gap;

means for exerting pressure on said lower part in said gap for bearing on said upper part, so that said piece of sheet material is able to be inserted between said means for exerting pressure and said upper part for tensioning the sheet material in the vicinity of said cutting blade.

14. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 13, wherein said cutting blade is the only mechanical connection between said upper part and said lower part, so that there is no obstruction to free movement of said apparatus when engaged with sheet material.

15. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 13, further comprising a holder for said cutting blade wherein said cutting blade and said holder, in combination with one another, is the only mechanical connection between said upper part and said lower part, so that there is no obstruction to free movement of said apparatus when engaged with sheet material.

16. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 13, wherein said means for exerting pressure comprises a freely rotatable wheel, positioned immediately in front of said cutting blade.

17. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 13, wherein an upper face of said lower part and a lower face of said upper part are shaped for providing matching sinusoidal surfaces for supporting said upper part and for tensioning said sheet material.

18. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 13, further comprising a window provided in said upper part for viewing said sheet material when said sheet material is immediately in front of said cutting blade.

19. The apparatus for cutting sheet material according to Claim 13, further comprising a window provided in said lower part for viewing said sheet material when said sheet material is immediately in front of said cutting blade.--

REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing preliminary amendments.

Claims 6-19 are pending in the above-identified patent application, as entered by this Preliminary Amendment.

Claims 6 and 13 are presented in independent form, and recite the two alternatives originally recited in Claim 1, as entered during Chapter II of the corresponding P.C.T. international application on June 14, 1999.

Prior Claims 1-5, as entered on June 14, 1999, during the Chapter II, P.C.T. international phase, have been cancelled.

Finally, an amended textual Specification was filed on June 14, 1999, during the Chapter II, P.C.T. international phase, which should be considered in combination with the drawing figures published in the P.C.T. application on November 5, 1998.

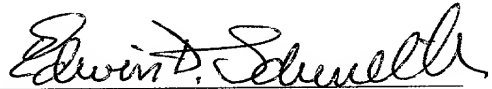
The amended textual Specification, filed June 14, 1999, has been further amended by the instant Preliminary Amendment, as Page 6, line 3 (i.e., deleting the word "amended"), as recommended by the IPEA/EP, on the last page of the International Preliminary Report, just prior to the pages containing Applicant's amended Specification.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNTAZ SHAH

By 
Edwin D. Schindler
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,459

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October 25, 1999

Article
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Druckexemplar

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CUTTING SHEET MATERIAL

This invention relates to apparatus for cutting sheet material.

For cutting sheet material such as paper or cloth plastics, including
PVC etc., it is known to use cutting apparatus as an alternative to shears,
5 scissors or a guillotine, which generally comprise a blade mounted to be
slidable along some form of linear guide to produce a straight line cut, for
example along a measured line for cutting paper or cloth to a required
length. An example of such a cutter is the applicant's own British Patent,
GB-A-2223976, wherein a blade runs along guides in an arm which is
10 shaped to place the sheet under tension to enable a clean cut to be made
by the blade.

Such cutters are useful for cutting sheets to predetermined sizes, for
example for office use, or for cutting wallpaper to a required length. The
blade is however constrained to move only along the guide, and thus cannot
15 be used for cutting other than straight lines, or for example cutting out
paper shapes, or cloth to a pattern, and heretofore scissors or shears have
to be used for such purposes.

U.S. Patent No. 3,835,536 (Marcoux) discloses a cutter for sheet
material comprising a member which is intended to be guided by a straight
20 edge such as a rule, and comprises a lower part and an upper part with a
slot between them for guiding an e.g. paper sheet. The two parts are

AMENDED SHEET

mechanically connected only by a cutter in the form of a razor blade, or a two-edged craft knife blade, and provide mating shaped surfaces for tensioning and guidance of the sheet.

5 An object of the invention is to provide apparatus for cutting sheet material which can be used to cut along other than straight line, and which preferably can be used freely, without restriction over the area of a sheet of material.

10 According to the invention, apparatus for cutting sheet material comprises a lower part for placing below a piece of sheet material, an upper part disposed above said lower part, with a gap between said upper and lower parts to receive said piece of sheet material, and a cutting blade secured in said upper and lower parts and extending across said gap and is characterised in that resilient pressure exerting means are provided mounted on one of the parts in the gap to bear on the other part, so that said piece
15 of sheet material can be inserted between said pressure exerting means and said other part to tension the sheet material in the vicinity of the blade, to thus assist a clean cutting action.

20 The cutting blade or a holder and blade combination may be the only mechanical connection between the upper and lower parts, so that there is no obstruction to free movement of the apparatus when engaged with a sheet.

The pressure exerting means may also help to distribute a user's hand pressure on the upper part to the lower part without stress on the blade.

The underside of the lower part may be provided with runners or slides or optionally, rotatable members, to enable the lower part to be moved over a supporting surface such as a cutting table. The runners or slides may comprise inverted domes having a smooth finish, or rotatable members such as wheels or rollers mounted on the lower part, or recessed ball-bearings in sockets or races may be formed in the underside of the lower part.

The upper part may be shaped and configured to provide a handle suitable for manipulation of the apparatus, and to guide and move the apparatus as required.

An embodiment of apparatus according to the invention for cutting sheet material will now be described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:-

Fig. 1 is a transverse sectional view of the apparatus;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the apparatus; and

Fig. 3 is a side view of the apparatus.

Apparatus according to the invention for cutting sheet material, as shown in the drawings, comprises an assembly 10, comprising a lower part 11, and an upper part 12. The upper and lower parts are assembled so that a gap 13 is present between them, and the only mechanical connection
5 between the parts is a cutting blade 14 and its holder, which prevents the parts from being separated.

The lower part 11 is provided at its front and rear ends with respective groups of runners 15, in the form of inverted domes. These are preferably of a self lubricating plastics material such as PTFE, or of metal.
10 These runners 15 enable the lower part 11 to be moved freely about a surface 16 such as a table.

The upper part 12 is shaped to provide a hand grip surface 17. Blade 14 is held at its upper end in a holder 18 secured in a recess 19 in the upper part 12. The lower end of blade 14 is held in a further holder 20
15 secured in a recess 21 in the lower part 11. The blade 14 can be removed and replaced in the holders, for example to replace broken or blunted blades.

A freely rotatable pressure wheel 22 is carried by the holder 18. This tensions sheet material such as 23 immediately in front of blade 14.

20 Sheet 23 is of material such as paper and is inserted into the gap 13 until the edge of the sheet abuts the cutting edge of blade 14, and wheel

2 presses on the sheet, pressing it against the upper surface of lower part 11, and subjecting the sheet 23 to tension in the zone of the blade 14. This enables a clean cut to be made by the blade as the apparatus is moved over the support 16.

5 The gap 13 is contoured as shown in the drawings to provide ridges on the lower part 11 and corresponding recesses in the upper part 12. This produces a sinusoidal-like path for the sheet 23 across the blade, and helps to tension the sheet and provide for support of the upper part by the lower part.

10 The weight exerted by the user's hand is passed on to the lower part 11 to each side of the blade rather than through the blade 14, since otherwise the strain on the blade would lead to frequent breakages.

As there is no obstruction to the sheet 23 other than the blade and its holder in the gap 13, the apparatus can be moved freely over the support
15 surface 16, cutting along any measured lengths and along straight ruled lines, for example in cutting wrapping paper to length, but also to follow curves etc. as in cutting out paper patterns, or cutting cloth to a pattern for dressmaking; or in a non-straight edge feature such as a moulding.

20 A magnifying window 24 is provided in the upper part, with a space 25 in the upper part allowing visual inspection of the sheet 23 immediately in front of the blade 14.

The above is one example of a possible form of apparatus according to the invention, and many of the details may be varied within the scope of the invention as defined in the amended claims. For example, instead of a wheel 14, rollers, dome head bearing members or recessed ball-bearings may be used to allow the lower part to move freely.

The number and placing of the pressure exerting members 22 may also be varied, most probably by providing a greater number, to transmit substantially all the hand pressure load to the lower part without stressing the blade.

Further, the shape and configuration of the upper part may be varied to provide a suitable or comfortable hand hold in different styles and sizes for single or double-handed operation, for various sizes of hands, or a joystick style handle used.

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for cutting sheet material, comprising a lower part (11) for placing below a piece of sheet material (23), an upper part (12) disposed above said lower part, a gap (13) between said upper and lower parts to receive said piece of sheet material, and a cutting blade (14) secured in said upper and lower parts and extending across said gap characterised in that pressure exerting means (22) are provided on one of the parts (11 or 12) in the gap (13) to bear on the other part (12 or 11), so that said piece of sheet material (23) can be inserted between the pressure exerting means (22) and the other part to tension the sheet material in the vicinity of the blade (14).
2. Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that said cutting blade (14) or a holder and blade combination (18, 14) is the only mechanical connection between said upper and said lower parts, whereby there is no obstruction to free movement of the apparatus when engaged with a sheet.
3. Apparatus according to claim 3 characterised in that said pressure exerting means comprises a freely rotatable wheel (22), positioned immediately in front of the blade (14).
4. Apparatus according to any preceding claim characterised in that the upper face of said lower part (11) and the lower face of said upper part (12) are shaped to provide matching sinusoidal surfaces for support of the upper part and tensioning of the sheet.

5. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein a window (24) is provided in one part for viewing the sheet immediately in front of the blade (14).

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(Includes Reference to PCT International Applications)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

CUTTING OF SHEET MATERIAL

the specification of which (check only one item below):

☐ is attached hereto.☐ was filed as United States application

Serial No. _____

on _____,

and was amended

on _____ (if applicable).

☒ was filed as PCT international applicationNumber PCT/GB98/01211on 24 April 1998,

and was amended under PCT Article 19

on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119:

COUNTRY (if PCT, indicate PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119
G.B.	9708327.3	25 April 1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Combined Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney (Continued)
(Includes Reference to PCT International Applications)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS			STATUS (Check one)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE		PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.					
PCT APPLICATION NO	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. SERIAL NUMBERS ASSIGNED (if any)			
PCT/GB98/01211	24 April 1998			X	

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

EDWIN D. SCHLINDER, REGISTRATION NO. 31,459

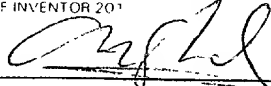
Send Correspondence to:

Edwin D. Schindler,
PO Box 966,
Coram, New York 11727-0966,
U.S.A.

Direct Telephone Calls to:
(name and telephone number)

201	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME SHAH	FIRST GIVEN NAME MUMTAZ	SECOND GIVEN NAME COBY
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY MANCHESTER	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY ENGLAND	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP GREAT BRITAIN
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 96 NEWPORT ROAD	CITY MANCHESTER	STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY M21 1WN ENGLAND
202	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY
203	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201 	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203
TE 15-10-99	DATE	DATE